

Points from Letters

THE PRICE OF HERRINGS

The plight of the herring industry is well known, on account of provisions not being forthcoming, or that the prices obtained are not remunerative. Quite recently I purchased from a local fishmonger 10 herrings of a fair size. They were 5s. each. With making every allowance, that it is early in the season, I think this price is sufficiently high to allow a fair profit to the industry, unless the middlemen, including transport charges, absorb too great a proportion. It seems to be a matter that should be reported to—**BURGESS-GENERAL EDITOR** HERRING, CROFTON.

SERVICE FRUIT

In reply to the question about service fruit I find the following in "The Garden Path-Magazine," by John Abercrombie, London, printed for John Stockdale, Piccadilly, 1799—

"Service are many of the berry kind, consisting of very few—viz. the currant; these are the wild and hung up in any dry summer they keep a month or two in winter and convert into the service fruit."

The above refers to the wild service. The districts as to fruit of the service are very similar.—**The Rev. R. J. S. GILL, the Red House, Tadworth, Surrey.**

BIRDS AND SMOKE

Mr. W. Alexander, whose letter regarding martins and smoke appears in your issue of August 24, may be interested to know that I have frequently seen a similar occurrence in India. Grass fire beside the railways are common, and on many occasions I have seen swarms of birds, mainly drooping and collecting above the fire. It appeared to me that insects from the grass were driven upwards in large numbers by the heat and they provided an easily obtained meal.—**Mr. J. H. STACE, Shoreham, New Milton, Hants.**

COUNTRY LANES

Your correspondent Mr. S. M. Radcliffe has told only the half of the damage which is being done to our once lovely lanes. Not only are the flowers mown and prevented from seeding and self-propagation, but the atmosphere and soil are being in the lanes, with the foul soil is at once occupied by nettles, with the flowers they passed away to be mown. With regard to butterflies, bees, wall-flutterflies, &c.—**E. A. C. STOWELL, Green Glades, Alverstoke, Basing, I.W.**

A POSTCARD FROM GERMANY

I think it may interest your readers to record the speed with which a postcard travelled from Cologne to the West of England. By the afternoon delivery I received on Monday a postcard posted in Cologne between 7 and 10 on the morning of the 10th. So the excitement of the postcard in Germany did not in any way retard the postal arrangements.—**J. H. STACE, Shoreham, New Milton, Hants.**

RURAL HOUSING

Your article on "The Farm Worker's Share" dealt only with cash wages. He has other needs. From time to time one hears of men in this neighbourhood (South-West Norfolk) unable to marry because a dwelling-house cannot be found. When so much is being done (or discussed) for the town workman the countryside seems to be forgotten. Mr. Elliot seems alive to the importance of the farmer, and I feel sure that if he could tackle rural housing he might do something to stop the fall in the number of farm labourers by providing houses for them to live in.—**Mr. S. R. BROWN.**

MILBERRIES

It may interest your readers to know that this year we have done some hundreds of bottles of milberries in syrup (4th of sugar to one gallon water), bringing the temperature up to 165deg. in 1½ hour and keeping it at that for 10 minutes. We find that when brought to a higher temperature the syrup does not cover the fruit when cold and the appearance is spoiled. The bottles we did last year kept perfectly.—**GLORIA E. DICKINSON, The Old Forge, Over Stowey, near Bridgewater.**

CHORAL LATIN

There is an aspect of the pronunciation of choral Latin which is sometimes overlooked, and it is to be hoped that any conference which may meet to discuss this question will consider it from the choirist's point of view. The "a" pronunciation is taught in the large majority of schools today, and it is kind to want to expose a boy to sing an anthem to the Italian pronunciation and then switch over to the "a" — when he goes into his Latin class an hour later? Now that this pronunciation has been generally adopted it is so our best to be consistent, particularly when we consider that this method is far superior for use to singing in Latin. It is a pronunciation which eliminates the objectionable soft c and ed is common.—**Mr. LAURENCE CROFTWATER, Organist and Choir-master, St. Michael's College, Vembay, Wores.**

"LINKS WITH SEDGEMOOR"

I have read with considerable interest the article by Mr. Ormonde Butler on "Links with Sedgemoor." But I should like to point out that he is quite incorrect in saying that The Royal Fusiliers were the first regiment to be armed with the "faul" or, in other words, the "fisted or fisted." The first regiment to be armed with the "faul" was the "Lord High Admiral's Regiment" or the "Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot," raised in 1664, and in the Order in Council instituting it it was specially laid down that "as the Soldiers' Regiment is to be armed with good muskets." The reason was obviously the Fusiliers, I think, were the first to be armed with both corps with cannon. For in those days when the powder for the warlike engines was even led out of a barrel, the presence of troops with the unloading machine required for the musk-locks with which the Army generally was equipped was a very serious danger.—**Mr. C. F. F. LA VICE-PRESIDENT of the Society of Army Historical Research.**

"THE TRAGEDY OF MAN"

The special correspondent who contributed the interesting account of Mudich's *Tragedy of Man* and its production at Staged in your issue of August 15, while referring to a recent German translation of the work, does not seem to have been aware that two English translations have recently appeared. One of these (published by the Hogarth Press) was by the late C. P. W. Whitson-Sheriff, All Saints Village, Weston-super-Mare.

"FUNNY"

On arriving for a second visit to a certain country inn in Devon, I asked the landlady if she remembered our party. She shook her head and said, "But then, you see, since then my poor husband 'as died, and a lot of other funny things 'as happened"—meaning, no doubt, the Great War.—**Sir ARTHUR F. HUNT, Hants-borne Terrace, Andover, Hants.**

CIMEX LECTULARIUS

"Chiche," the word mentioned by several of your correspondents, is the correct Spanish equivalent for bed-bug. The dictionary gives the word as derived from cimex, ablativus of cimex.—**Mr. GREGOR BOG, Spain.**

HAWKES' BAPTISM

Surely Hawker was only carrying out what he understood to be the order of Canon 24 of the Canons Ecclesiastical of the Church of England, 1699: "No person shall be admitted to baptism unless he be present, nor be admitted to answer as godfather for his own child." It would be surprising to know the meaning and purpose of the first part of this order.—**The Rev. MARTIN H. HURTEWATTE, The Rectory, Wickham, Co. Durham.**

BATS

I have found the following a very good method of ridding a bedroom of them. A tulip pole is held upright in the hands and moved slowly in a rotary direction; this will attract the bat and he may be gradually enticed through the open window.—**Mr. W. G. HASTON, Chalfont, Kent.**

CROSS-WORDS

I have read the correspondence about cross-words with interest and, I may say, sometimes with incredulity, but none of your writers approaches the claim of my old lady of 70 who has been close to me. "Do you know," she said, "we did the Cross-word yesterday and we did not get one single word right."—**Mr. P. A. ORECHMAN.**

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